

By Liana Lim Hinch & Adriano Rodari

Wild Card Analysis of Vaccine Rollout in Indonesia: What Can Go Wrong?

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COVID-19 has exposed the lack of resilience and preparedness of many governments and businesses in handling global shocks. A global shock is often referred to as a "wild card" in the field of strategic foresight.

Wild cards are single events or a sequence of related events with a low likelihood of occurring but extremely high impact and speed. A wild card has broad and fundamental implications and typically moves so fast that there is not enough warning to allow the rest of the system to adjust to the shock.

While successful vaccine developments give new hopes to citizens and markets impatiently waiting for a return to normality, many unexpected disruptions could still derail the best-laid plans. Below we present two wild card scenarios on Indonesia's COVID-19 inoculation strategy, illustrating the enormous challenges as the country attempts to put the pandemic behind it.



even been given access to the jabs. The inoculation rate is 20 times higher in Java and Bali compared to other parts of the country. While the government claims logistical difficulties and supply hiccups cause the gap, rumors circulate that the fastest way to get inoculated is by bribing officials who have set up an extremely efficient black market. Priority groups in other islands have not re-

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1 MISINFORMATION BRINGS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TO A HALT

The kick-off of Indonesia's immunization campaign brings misinformation to a fever pitch. One of the most potent hoaxes centers on the claim that the immunization plan is a government's scheme to implant microchips in citizens' arms so that they can be tracked and monitored. This lie is amplified by "true stories" and "testimonials" from hundreds of front-liners who got vaccinated and later still contracted the COVID-19 virus anyway. A lot of the anger is addressed towards President Joko Widodo, who is suspected of receiving a vitamin injection instead of the actual vaccine. Doubt about the vaccine's effectiveness begins to morph into civil disobedience, with more health care workers refusing to get the 2nd dose, subsequently followed by many others, bringing the campaign to a screeching halt. The government tries to offer financial incentives, which strengthens the hoax narrative. The pandemic continues to ravage the country, leaving a trail of deaths and destruction in its wake.

2 VACCINE CORRUPTION EXPOSES VULNERABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA LARGEST COUNTRY

Vaccine rollout in Indonesia is extremely slow. In June, it is clear that many residents outside of Java and Bali have not

ceived the jab, while many affluent people in Java and Bali have already got injected. The underground market, coupled with a limited supply, leaves the rest of the country out of vaccines. The rumor is confirmed once KPK begins arresting several high-prominent officials charged with administering the vaccine. The unequal access to vaccine leads to massive protests against the government, triggering a political crisis in addition to the already severe health and economic crisis.

A successful inoculation campaign hinges on many factors: securing enough supplies, ensuring smooth logistics, persuading enough people to get vaccinated, countering rampant misinformation, managing expectations, and anticipating potential missteps. By focusing on seemingly far-fetched, improbable, or even "wild" possibilities, wild card analysis helps us identify weak signals and understand key dynamics behind the confluence of events. The wild card scenarios presented here are not intended as a forecast to predict what will happen. Instead, they offer imaginable narratives that can help us prepare when faced with potentially catastrophic events, helping lessen not only the surprise factor but also strengthen our ability to monitor, prepare for, and cope with such events. **1**

LIANA LIM HINCH IS INDONESIA LEAD AND ADRIANO RODARI IS AN INTERN AT FORESIGHT INTELLIGENCE. FORESIGHT INTELLIGENCE IS AN ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANCY FOCUSING ON EMPOWERING ORGANIZATIONS TO MANAGE STRATEGIC ISSUES WHILE COPING WITH COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS AND UNCERTAIN FUTURES.